

# The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY EVEN'G, JANUARY 17.

The National Intelligencer contains the "intercepted correspondence" of the Confederate authorities with their diplomatic and financial agents in Europe, which was lately captured, in a vessel off the Southern coast. The letters relate principally to statements of military operations, and the view taken of them in the South—to a supposed discovery of a political "intrigue" believed to have been set on foot by a consular agent of the French Government, resident at Galveston, for the purpose of detaching the State of Texas from the Southern Confederation—and to the European operations of the Confederate Treasury and Navy Departments. Mr. Memminger explains the plans for raising money in England by the hypothecation of cotton in the Confederate States. The *modus operandi* by which that coin may be transmitted in British naval vessels, from the blockaded ports, to be employed in England for war purchases and payments, receives elucidation at the hands of the Confederate Secretary, while the use to which a portion of the funds is to be put finds explanation in the correspondence of Mr. Mallory, the Secretary of the Navy. The utility of iron-clad vessels, and the means by which they are to be procured in England, form the burden of these papers. From them we learn, too, the names of the "financial agents" of the Southern Confederacy in England, and what "houses" are ready to fill the military and naval orders received from Richmond.

The Washington Star of yesterday evening has a dispatch dated Centreville, Va., Jan. 16, which says:—"Last night, a cavalry sergeant and nine men were gobbled up by the Confederates, out on the Braddock road. They were improperly asleep at the time, and were within half a mile of the infantry pickets. So we go."

ROBBERIES.—The cellar of the store of Mr. L. N. Howard, No. 175 King street, was entered on Thursday night, and three kegs of butter stolen. A keg and a half has been recovered and an arrest made for the robbery.

Several chickens, a quantity of vegetables and other things were stolen from Mrs. Elliott, at Yeates' garden last night. The thieves are supposed to have been "Contrabands."

The House of Representatives of the Legislature of Indiana have passed a resolution condemning the practice of "arbitrary arrests" by the government, and demanding that all such arrests shall hereafter cease.

The Prince Georgian (Md.) speaks of the recent abduction of slaves from Charles County, heretofore mentioned, and compliments Hon. Henry May, for endeavoring to bring the subject before Congress.

The negroes in Washington are making preparations for "a grand mass meeting" in recognition of the President's Emancipation Proclamation!

The Market this morning was poorly supplied, and all descriptions of food offered at very high prices.

Gold in New York, yesterday, 146½—a fall.

The weather has turned cold again.

## President Lincoln on War Matters.

In the McDowell Court of Inquiry, yesterday, Gen'l. Hitchcock was called, and testified at length relative to the force left for the protection of Washington when McClellan's army started for the Peninsula. In the course of his testimony the following letter from the President was laid before the court.

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1862.

Major General McClellan—My Dear Sir:—Your despatches complaining that you are not properly sustained, while they do not offend me, pain me very much.

Blenker's division was withdrawn from you before you left here, and you knew the pressure under which I did it, and, as I thought, acquiesced in it—certainly not without reluctance.

After you left I ascertained that less than 20,000 unorganized men, without a single field battery, were all you designed to be left for the defence of Washington and Manassas Junction; and part of this even was to go to General Hooker's old position.

Gen. Banks's corps, once designed for Manassas Junction, was divided and tied up on the line of Winchester and Strasburg, and could not leave it without again exposing the Upper Potomac and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—This presented (or would present, when McDowell and Sumner should be gone,) a great temptation for the enemy to turn back from the Rappahannock and sack Washington.

My explicit directions that Washington should, by the judgment of all commanders of corps, be left entirely secure, had been entirely neglected. It was precisely this that drove me to detain McDowell. I do not forget that I was satisfied with your arrangement to leave Banks at Manassas Junction; but when that arrangement was broken up, and nothing was substituted for it, of course I was not satisfied; I was constrained to substitute something for it myself.

And now, allow me to ask, "do you really think I should permit the line from Richmond, via Manassas Junction, to this city, to be entirely open, except what resistance could be presented by less than 20,000 unorganized troops?" This is a question which the country will not allow me to evade.

There is a curious mystery about the number of troops now with you. I telegraphed you on the 6th, saying that you had over 100,000 with you. I had just obtained from the Secretary of War a statement taken, as he said, from your own returns; making 108,000 then with you and en route to you.

You now say you will have but 85,000, when all en route to you shall have reached you. How can this discrepancy of 35,000 be accounted for!

As to General Wool's command, I understand it is doing for you precisely what a like number of your own would have to do; if that command was away. I suppose the whole force which has gone forward to you is with you by this time; and, if so, I think it is the precise time for you to strike a blow. By delay the enemy will readily gain on you; that is he will gain faster by fortifications and reinforcements, than you can by reinforcements alone.

And once more, let me tell you, it is indispensable to you that you strike a blow! I am powerless to help this. You will do me the justice to remember, I always wished not going down the bay in search of a field, instead of fighting at or near Manassas, as only shifting and not surmounting a difficulty; that we would find the same enemy and the same or equal entrenchments at either place. The country will not fail to note—is noting now—that the present hesitation to move upon an entrenched enemy is but the story of Manassas repeated.

I beg to assure you that I have never written or spoken to you in greater kindness of feelings than now, nor with a fuller purpose to sustain you, so far as in my most anxious judgment I consistently can. But you must act.

Yours, very truly,  
(Signed,)

A. LINCOLN.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

WASHINGTON, January 16, 1863.—The Committee of Ways and Means, at their meeting this morning, determined to postpone the vote on the finance bill until next week. Secretary Chase having returned this morning, the committee deemed it due to him that a conference should be had, that they might hear any suggestions which he might have to make. A special committee of three was thereupon appointed, composed of Messrs. Spaulding, Hooper and Horton, who will wait upon the Secretary to-morrow in reference to this matter.

The House has adjourned over until Monday, but the bill will not be voted upon, in all probability, until Tuesday, when it will, no doubt, be passed by a large majority. The Democrats of the Vallandigham stripe, will vote against it.

This bill, making legal tenders receivable for duties, has no chance for passing either House.

The President remarked to-day that he considered the Rebellion nearer being crushed before, and that we now hold a hundred thousand square miles more than we had a year ago.

Horace Greeley has had several interviews with the President to-day; but his projects received no endorsement from the Executive.

All is quiet on the lines of the Rappahannock, as far as heard from.

The Washington Star of yesterday says:—"Some days ago Officer Kirby, with a writ issued by Commissioner S. L. Phillips under the fugitive slave law, arrested a colored man, a fugitive slave belonging to Mr. Fendall Marbury, of Prince George county, Md., and the fugitive was put in custody of the Marshal at the county jail. Before the writ was issued, Mr. Marbury took the oath of allegiance, and also made oath that he had not borne arms or in any manner given aid and comfort to the rebels during the present rebellion. Last night an officer of the Provost Guard went to the county jail and demanded the prisoner, on the ground, it was understood, that the owner was a rebel. Mr. Milburn refused to deliver the prisoner, and the captain had not a sufficient force to take him, an orderly only being his companion.—He went away, and soon after returned with a squad of mounted men, and demanded the prisoner. Mr. Milburn, the jailor, then delivered the prisoner under protest."

The last letter of the Southern correspondent of the London Times, says:—"I have no other report with reference to the spirit and morale of the confederate army to give than that which I have had occasion, from the first hour that I saw them, to chronicle. The confidence, the bodily health, the comforts (especially as regards blankets and shoes,) the cheerfulness of the Southern army have been constantly on the increase for weeks past."

The bark Morning Star, which arrived from St. Jago, reports having been fired into and overhauled by the British gunboat Plover.